

IRRIGON RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

DATE: 12/12/2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:57 PM. Present were Robert Vandecar, Gayland Bledsoe, Burrel Cooley and Ashley Munkers and Scott Ezell.

Also present were Charlene Cooley as recordkeeper, Thomas Roberts, as Interim Fire Chief.

Guest present: Aaron Palmquist

Minutes from November 13, 2023 were reviewed, Gayland Bledsoe moved to accept, Burrel Cooley seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Chief's Report – 16 total calls, 2 mutual aid. Annual total calls for 2023 to date 187. Chief Roberts has been working on bringing some unincorporated land into the district. Stahl Farms is one landowner that he has been working with, and it became known that they are part of Boardman RFPD. If they choose to come back to IRFPD it would result in a re-annexation.

Members of the department served lunch to students at AC Houton on the last day before Thanksgiving Break. Working on food baskets – working with the Moose Lodge and the partnership is proving to be successful. One volunteer will be dressing as the Grinch and visiting the schools this week.

Financials –Burrel Cooley moved to accept, Gayland Bledsoe seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Information is at Barnett & Moro for the annual review process, should be back to us by Dec 15.

Old Business –

1. Permanent Fire Chief Position Update – Scott Ezell sent out a new description to the rest of the Board. Discussion of how long to advertise, it was said 45 days to start with. Will push out through the state to all Fire Departments and possibly through Emergency Management Network.
  - a. Charlene to reach out to Jeanie Bowman at Umatilla Fire to see how they advertised and communicate with the Board.
2. Old Rescue – Lexington Fire Department reached out with an inquiry to look at the old ambulance as a vehicle for them. Chief discussed the value of this truck and Chairman Vandecar mentioned “paying it forward” as other departments have done for IRFPD. IRFPD will entertain an offer from Lexington.
3. Grants/ Project Updates
  - a. OSFM Engine – An Intergovernmental Agreement has been released for this new truck.
  - b. One item in the contract is the requirement to be covered. It's being discussed to put up a temporary type of pole barn – City Manager is in attendance and discussed code a little in regards to placing a Connex storage container. He suggested going to Cleary for a quote.
  - c. It was also mentioned that we need to be cognizant on the future and when a new building may be built, no nothing permanent should be built.
  - d. Pole barn plans can be attained for the purpose of planning.
4. Christmas Food Baskets – Will be using the Christmas fund account this year for baskets. Will be boxed on Thursday and delivered on Saturday.
5. Firefighter Banquet – January 12, Lenn Greer will do the cooking. Ashley and Kimberlee will help with the planning. Chief Roberts would like to give logo'd duffel bags to the volunteers.
  - a. Gayland Bledsoe moved we purchase the duffels, Scott Ezell seconded the motion, motion carried.
  - b. Cindy Turner and Lynn Hobbs will be invited and presented their wings at this banquet.
6. Station / Equipment Upgrades Update
  - a. Exit Signs & Emergency Lighting – Scott is working on the electrical.
  - b. Bay Doors – Maintenance has been done to the doors.
  - c. Tool/Turnout Room – in process.
7. CDA Land and Unincorporated Land Annexation – City Manager, Aaron Palmquist here to speak on this.
  - a. MOU - A statement of mutual aid agreement to be signed into record.
    - i. Scott Ezell moved we sign into agreement, Ashley Munkers seconded the motion, motion

carried.

- b. Letter from City Manager to the County Board of Commissioners discussing the area of influence.
  - i. Aaron Palmquist – explained the maps of the CDA and the area of influence regarding how it affects IRFPD. He is working on getting IRFPD into the taxing district to benefit from the enterprise zone and CREZ.
    - Chief Roberts talked about mutual aid agreements between our neighbors and how our ISO rating affects them.
    - Mr. Palmquist went on to say how economic development needs to be balanced to be successful. Irrigon needs industrial land to help with this.
  - ii. Chief Roberts drafted up a resolution to the matter of the City's initiative for the Area of Influence Expansion.
    - Gayland Bledsoe moved to approve the resolution, Burrel Cooley seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

New Business –

1. Weekly Chief and staff meetings have not started yet due to the holiday schedules.

Bills Payable - The bills were presented for payment. The motion was made by Scott Ezell and seconded by Gayland Bledsoe to pay the bills as presented. All in favor, motion passed.

Public Comment –

Announcements –

There was no further business. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM

Next Meeting January 8, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlene Cooley  
Recordkeeper

*Executive Session:*